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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1-22 Canceled
- 23. (Currently amended) A method of ameliorating symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation, said method comprising:

identifying a subject having symptoms of a condition associated with <u>chronic</u> inflammation; and

modulating <u>reducing</u> in said subject the level or activity of the NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof, thereby ameliorating symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation.

- 24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is modulated reduced by altering the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof.
- 25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is modulated reduced by administering a nucleic acid compound to said subject.
- 26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein medulating reducing the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof modulates the level or activity of a pro-inflammatory chemokine.
 - Canceled
- 28. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the level or activity of said proinflammatory chemokine is reduced.
 - 29. Canceled
- 30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 29 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by reducing the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof.
- (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is

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reduced by providing an antisense nucleic acid complementary to at least a portion of a <u>nucleic</u> acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof and administering the antisense nucleic acid to said subject.

- 32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 29 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by reducing the activity or level of a pro-inflammatory cytokine.
- 33. (Withdrawn) A method of ameliorating the symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation, said method comprising modulating the level of transcription of at least one promoter responsive to an NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof.
- 34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein the level of transcription of said at least one promoter responsive to an NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof is reduced.
- 35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein modulating the level or activity of said promoter modulates the level or activity of a pro-inflammatory chemokine.
 - 36. (Canceled)
- (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein the level or activity of said proinflammatory chemokine is reduced.
 - 38-126. Canceled
- 127. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof comprises an amino acid-sequence selected from the group consisting of amino-acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NOs: 4-6 the sequence of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NO: 4.
- 128. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein said NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NOs: 4-6 the sequence of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NO: 4.
- 129. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by providing an siRNA complementary to at least a portion of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV

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polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof and administering the siRNA to said subject.